

August 30, 1956

Dear Larry:

We've rushed through the proof, and it's now in Dr. Brink's hands. Don't worry about the financing. I've ordered 250 reprints (50 covers) to be shipped to you direct; if you come to need more later, there will be an undoubtedly adequate supply here.

Here are some more cards to reflect the "market". One reason there isn't a more obvious demand, of course, is that most of the people on my mailing list will not file requests— this amounts to about 400. If you are not going to establish your own list for a while, I will include the two M.I.L. papers in my mass mailing around Xmas time; I will assume this fits your intention unless you change your mind or let me know to the contrary.

There were a couple of blunders in proof. Lederberg's not so bad, but in place of might have had some people gasping (if they weren't already). I hope there aren't subtler (therefore still worse) ones still in. & Esther thinks Goodgal has a paper in BBActa on P^{32} and lambda, but I haven't seen it, so the reference to Hershey stands.

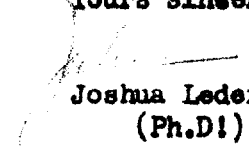
exciting

Not much is going on here. Esther will write you (she started a letter weeks ago) about her activities. The Wrights are in Europe, of course; Dot's only working 1/2 time, and all of that to make medium. So the lab's practically empty. We have a portable aircond. unit in our lab, but it only works about 1/2 the time itself, but it helps take the edge off some of the worst days. I'm tied up personally with L-forms right now, learning how to make the protoplasts proliferate, which they will do but only in agar under rather mystical Dienesian conditions. It looks like the protoplasts just bud. So far I haven't been able to make serial passages of the L colonies, either with Proteus or K-12, but this ought to be possible soon.

No recent word from K&K; we sent them Gal₈ ~~mutant~~ and Lac₃ a while ago. The status quo is that 1,4,6,7 are all ~~transferrase~~ negative; 2 and W-3142 are kinase-negative. To find a waldenase mutant we may have to look for a galactose-dependent, as the bug wouldn't be able to make galactose for its own wall, etc. But it should also show as a galactose-nonfermenter & have been picked up routinely. Also, there probably is plenty of galactose from the agar.

We were very sorry to learn of your and Halvise's bad luck, and can only wish you the best from now on. We assume you have all the medical advice you could want.

Yours sincerely


Joshua Lederberg
(Ph.D!)